

Bay/Delta Team

Post-ANPR 1:1 interviews

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1. For which three actions is EPA uniquely positioned to take to protect and restore the Bay/Delta in the post-ANPR era?

1. Improve oversight of State Programs
2. Backstop state actions
3. Bring together science and policy

Water Quality

- * Focus more on enhancing restoration of water quality, and not just water quantity.
- * Focus on restoring impaired waters across the Bay/Delta.
- * Enhance restoration of water quality for impairments associated with polluted runoff by developing environmental accountability programs and systems to achieve WQS.
- * Advance innovative, sustainable funding mechanisms for on-going land stewardship aimed at restoring and protecting water quality

TMDLs

- * Advance the implementation of TMDLs by developing environmental accounting programs
 - ❖ establish TMDL accountability and tracking website similar to the Chesapeake Bay Chesapeake Bay TMDL Tracking and Accounting System (BayTAS) to assess TMDL progress and enhance its accountability and transparency.
 - ❖ establish decision tools and systems to optimize funding and program decisions to achieve result
 - ❖ increase institutional capacity through developing tools and training
 - ❖ improve communication with web-based tools
- * Establish an “accountability framework” for implementing TMDLs and restoring impaired waters.
 - ❖ Articulate transparent goals.
 - ❖ Collaborate with the Water Board on their “Irrigated Lands” program.
 - ❖ Add numeric requirements to stormwater permits.
 - ❖ Schedule meeting with SFEI to discuss: (i) routes for ensuring TMDL implementation, (ii) feedback loops, and (iii) adaptive management.
- * Increase EPA’s oversight of the State’s implementation of the §319 and TMDL programs.
 - ❖ Collaborate with the State to clearly define “satisfactory performance.”
 - ❖ Articulate realistic tasks milestones that advance progress toward specific,

performance-based WQ improvements.

Decision Tools and Monitoring

- * Build on PPI pollutant trading recommendation to establish environmental accounting program to optimize water quality investment decisions.

- * Seek use of SRFs to support water quality improvement actions to maximize improvement of Bay/Delta WQ (ammonia & beyond)

- * Advance “proof of concept” for on-the-ground actions

 - ❖ Focus on livable communities, environmental quality & economic health, LIDS, regional foodsheds and sustainable agriculture

 - ❖ Potential tie with CY’s idea to focus on 5 immediate Delta counties

 - ❖ Formulate incremental milestones that contribute to aspirational goals.

- * Establish strong monitoring program to advance watershed work.

 - ❖ Conceptualize EPA’s desired outcome, and design monitoring efforts to help achieve this outcome. [TF]

Help establish public funding sources supported by water users

2. What is the best action EPA is currently taking on the Bay/Delta that is showing measurable results?
3. Is there an admirable action EPA is trying to take on the Bay/Delta that is being thwarted by internal or external roadblocks? If yes, what, by whom, and why?
4. What is the best idea (articulated internally or externally) that EPA has never pursued to protect and restore the Bay/Delta, and why?
5. What action is EPA (HQ and R9) afraid to take on the Bay/Delta that could be a “game changer,” and how would it be a game changer?
6. What were the strongest parts of the ANPR document, and why?
The description of the current state of the science concerning specific water quality issues impacting aquatic resources.
7. What were the weakest parts of the ANPR document, and why?

The description of the strengths and weakness of the programs and policies that impact aquatic resources, to invite recommendations to improve management and policies.
8. What could EPA do on Bay/Delta that would be most rewarding for you personally and professionally?